

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-12 and 16-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6 and 13-15 are canceled by the present response without prejudice. Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,622,266 to Goddard et al. (herein "Goddard") in view of U.S. patent 7,031,009 to McCarthy, Jr. (herein "McCarthy"). That rejection is traversed by the present response as discussed next.

Each of independent claims 7, 10 and 16 is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, those claims clarify an operation discussed in the present specification for example at page 7, lines 17-23. As noted in that portion of the present specification, in an image processing apparatus and method, a job processing condition can be reported to a user terminal. Further, a thumbnail image data generating device can generate thumbnail image data of a first page of the job, which is then stored in an information source provided in the image processing apparatus. If the job is completed or interrupted, then an electronic mail transmitting device can transmit an electronic mail including a URL representing the information source, without transmitting the generated thumbnail image data, to a mail address assigned to the user terminal apparatus.

With such an operation, the user at the user terminal apparatus can then access the thumbnail image data at the information source by utilizing the transmitted URL, to thereby obtain the thumbnail image data.

The claims now clarify an operation noted above and discussed in the present specification at page 7, lines 17-23. As noted in that portion in the specification, the URL of the digital copier storing the generated thumbnail image data can be sent without the generated thumbnail image data, so that the user at the terminal apparatus can then obtain and display the thumbnail of the image data from the image forming apparatus itself.

The above-noted features clarified in each of independent claims 7, 10, and 16 are believed to distinguish over the applied art.

The Advisory Action of April 16, 2008 emphasized that McCarthy was cited to disclose the transmission of a URL.

In reply, applicants note McCarthy discloses for example at column 2, lines 37-40 that a Scan Server 22 can request a Metadata Acquisition Service 26 to acquire metadata for a document, see also step 103 in Figure 2, and the request can include a URL to a first page of the scanned document. Applicants submit the claims as currently written distinguish over the cited disclosures in McCarthy.

First, applicants submit it is not at all clear that in McCarthy the URL is sent to a user 10. In the claims the URL is sent to a user terminal, and thereby that allows the user to obtain the thumbnail image data.

Further, McCarthy states at column 2, lines 48-50 the Metadata Acquisition Service 26 retrieves the first page of the scan document from the scan server 22 and “formats it as an *email attachment*” (emphasis added). Thereby, in McCarthy the e-mail includes the first page of the scanned document, and that first page of the scanned document is sent to the user.

In contrast to the above-noted feature recited in McCarthy, in the claims as written the URL is sent, which represents the information source within the image forming apparatus where the thumbnail image data is stored, but the URL is sent without the generated thumbnail image data. McCarthy discloses a contrary structure and operation.

In the claimed invention the transmitted URL can be used by the user to access the first page of the scan document, and thereby in the claimed invention it is not necessary for that first page to be attached to the e-mail, in contrast to McCarthy.

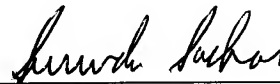
In such ways, applicants respectfully submit McCarthy does not disclose the features relied upon as the basis for the outstanding rejection with respect to the claims as currently

written. Thereby, applicants respectfully submit each of amended independent claims 7, 10, and 16, and the claims dependent therefrom, patentably distinguish over Goddard in view of McCarthy.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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